A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS

All American Sailors -- all around the world today -- join me in mourning the loss of our shipmate, Mr. Lloyd Brown, the last known Navy veteran of World War I to slip his moorings and sail on.

We extend to his family and friends our deepest sympathies and most sincere condolences. We salute his brave service aboard the battleship USS NEW HAMPSHIRE during that awful conflict, and we stand in grateful silence for the courage with which he fought to defend the American way of life and the very ideal of democracy.

His is a legacy of honor and dignity -- of duty nobly done -- that I continue to witness every day in the faces of our young Sailors. They fight a new war against new enemies of freedom with every bit the same grit Mr. Brown and his great generation exemplified.

We stand on his broad shoulders. We will never forget him, our shipmate.

-- Adm. Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations